coverage of the news relating to important progrommes of various political parties on the network of radio and television in the country, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the news about the annual Session of Congress held at Tirupati from 14th—16th April, 1992 was broadcast/telecast on the electronic media of the country including some pre-publicity of the programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of days as well as the dates of the broadcast/telecast (including visual coverage) their duration and the timings of the bulletins put out for telecast/broadcast each day?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) The following guidelines and norms laid down by the Government from time to time are followed by Akashwani and Doordarshan while broadcasting and telecasting news about political parties :—

(i) Political activities are noticed based on their news worthiness.

(ii) Unbiased reportings of the news in respect of all the political parties.

(iii) Coverage of differing view points in the same bulletin to the extent possible.

(iv) Avoiding in the news bulletin the use of labels such as "progressive" and "communal" etc.

(v) In case of controversy about nomenclature of a political party, following the name as approved by the Election Commission of India or by a Court of Law.

(vi) Coverage of political controversies based on objectivity and fair play.

(b) The Session was covered and telecast in Doordarshan bulletins including a curtain raiser.

(c) and (d) Such details are not maintained centrally in a compiled form.

Putting ban on Pornographic Video Films

1262. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the country has been flooded with Pornographic Video Films and the film certification Board is also passing such films with nude scenes which are adversely affecting the minds of young generation in the country; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to put a ban and tackle the menace of porno-nude and obscene films in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) All films (including video films) intended for public exhibition in India are to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1962 and the Guidelines issued thereunder. The Board examines and certifies such films as are found to be suitable for public exhibition. The Board does not certify pornography or any film which otherwise violates the guidelines issued by the Central Government under the Cinematograph Act, Exhibition of films, including video films, not duly certified by the Board, is an offence.

Newspapers have reported on occasions instances of films not shown in the form in which they are certified by the Board, but with interpolations. Such exhibition is an offence punishable under the Cinematoglaph Act, 1962. However, the responsibility for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act in this regard rests with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. They have been repeatedly advised to strictly enforce these provisions of the law.

Pension to Working Journalists

1263. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: